

Message Text

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EXDIS-HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. CANADA: CABINET REJECTS FUNDING FOR DEAL WITH
LOCKHEED

CANADIAN DEFENSE MINISTER RICHARDSON CALLED AMBASSADOR
ENDERS LATE YESTERDAY EVENING TO TELL HIM THE CABINET HAD
REVERSED ITSELF ON THE QUESTION OF FINANCING LOCKHEED
LONG-RANGE PATROL AIRCRAFT (LRPA).

--THE CABINET DECIDED TO REJECT BOTH THE REGULAR
GOVERNMENT BUDGET AND A BANK CONSORTIUM AS SOURCES
OF FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT, AND ADJOURNED ON THE NOTE
THAT THE DEAL IS OFF UNLESS SOME UNUSUAL NEW ALTER-
NATIVE PRESENTS ITSELF.

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--RICHARDSON SUGGESTED THAT HIGH-LEVEL DEFENSE OR

TREASURY REPRESENTATIONS MAY STILL REVIVE THE SALE.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: TO JUDGE BY THE 180-DEGREE REVERSAL
IN 24 HOURS UNDER TRUDEAU'S PERSONAL LEADERSHIP, THIS IS
IN 24 HOURS UNDER TRUDEAU'S PERSONAL LEADERSHIP, THIS IS

PROBABLY THE LAST ACT ON LRPA. HOWEVER, WE WILL TRY TO
DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES AND REPORT MAY 19. (CONFIDENTIAL)
OTTAWA 1997, 5/19 (EXDIS).

2. GUN SCANDAL EXPLODES ON EL SALVADORAN SCENE

EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR REPORTS HEAVY POLITICAL SHOCK WAVES
IN THE AFTERMATH OF CHIEF OF STAFF RODRIGUEZ'S ARREST IN
NEW YORK CITY, WHICH COMES ON THE HEELS OF INCREASING
RUMORS OF CORRUPTION IN THE MOLINA GOVERNMENT.

--THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR WANTS A COMPREHENSIVE
REPORT OF RODRIGUEZ'S ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT SO IT CAN
DEMONSTRATE THAT HE WAS ACTING SOLELY ON HIS OWN
BEHALF.

--COL. RODRIGUEZ IS A POPULAR MILITARY FIGURE, AND
SOME YOUNGER OFFICERS ARE PROPOUNDING THE THEORY
THAT THE ENTIRE INCIDENT IS A US PLOT TO DESTABI-
LIZE THE REGIME.

EMBASSY COMMENT: MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS WERE PRE-
DICTING THAT PRESIDENT MOLINA WOULD BE ABLE TO COMPLETE
HIS TERM. THIS INCIDENT COULD UPSET THAT PREDICTION.
UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE SHOULD BE AS FORTHCOMING AS
OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM PERMITS IN PROVIDING AMPLE AND
TIMELY INFORMATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR.
(SECRET) SAN SALVADOR 2301, 5/18.

3. RESETTLEMENT OF JEWS THROUGH ITALY JEOPARDIZED

EX-SOVIET JEWS ARE DEMONSTRATING AT THE ROME OFFICES OF
THE HEBREW IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY (HIAS), AND EMBASSY
ROME SAYS THE EMBASSY MAY BE A LOGICAL NEXT TARGET FOR
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THE DEMONSTRATORS.

--THE JEWS, WHO HAVE COME TO ROME FROM THE USSR VIA
ISRAEL PENDING FINAL RESETTLEMENT, ARE PROTESTING
THE ORGANIZATION'S REFUSAL TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL
SUPPORT AND CLAIM TO REPRESENT 800 INDIVIDUALS.

--MOST OF THE DEMONSTRATORS APPARENTLY APPLIED FOR

REFUGEE STATUS IN THE US BUT WERE REFUSED BECAUSE
OF THEIR PREVIOUS RESETTLEMENT IN ISRAEL.

--IN THE INCREASINGLY POLITICIZED ITALIAN ATMOSPHERE,
THE GOVERNMENT COULD WITHDRAW ITS HOSPITALITY TO RE-
FUGEES BECAUSE OF ABUSES BY THOSE WHO LEFT ISRAEL AFTER
BEING RESETTLED THERE. (CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 8110, 5/18.

4. PORTUGAL: COMMUNISTS BACK PARTY OFFICIAL IN PRESI-
DENTIAL RACE

THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF PORTUGAL (PCP) HAS NOMINATED PCP
SECRETARIAT MEMBER OCTAVIO PATO AS ITS CANDIDATE FOR
PRESIDENT. EMBASSY LISBON OBSERVES THAT:

--THE PCP DECIDED THAT A MILITARY CANDIDATE WOULD
NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE PARTY'S OBJECTIVES OF PRE-
VENTING AN ANTI-COMMUNIST ALLIANCE AND PROMOTING A
GOVERNMENT OF THE LEFT FORMED BY SOCIALISTS AND
COMMUNISTS.

--CUNHAL WANTED TO BACK A WINNER, BUT EAMES OFFERED
NO ASSURANCES OF A QUID PRO QUO FOR PCP SUPPORT.

REUTER SAYS THE PATO CANDIDACY IS A TACIT PCP ADMISSION
THAT ITS CAMPAIGN TO FORM A COALITION WITH THE SOCIALISTS
HAS FAILED. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 3308, 5/18. KISSINGER

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